

MP's call for police videos

MP Bernie Grant has demanded the installation of video cameras in police stations and vehicles following the death of Gambian asylum seeker Ibrahima Sey, who was sprayed with CS gas by police officers.

Ibrahima, a 29-year-old married father of two from Manor Park, east London, was arrested by a number of officers following a domestic dispute at his home in the early hours of Saturday, March 16.

Mr Grant wants the cameras in vans, yards, cells and charge rooms. He has also called for the suspension of the officers involved.

"Had there been video cameras in the police van and the yard we might have had a chance of finding out what happened to Mr Sey. As things stand, given the record of fudge and cover up on Black deaths in custody, it is likely that we shall never know."

Alieusey Sey, the 34-year-old brother of Ibrahima, told *The Voice*: "My brother did not commit any crime. He was kind, religious and a good

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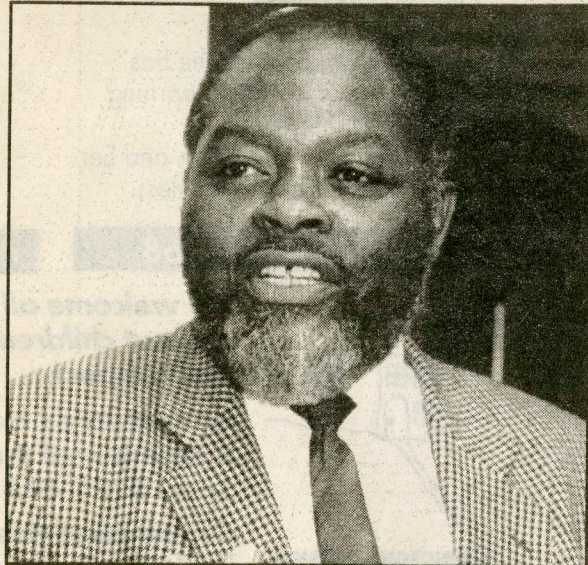
and, religious and a good husband and should not be treated in this way."

Pa-Ebou Ndimbalan, the friend who accompanied him to the station on the day that he died, told The Voice: "When we arrived at the police station we were talking peacefully when police officers grabbed him by his neck and legs and turned him on his stomach. Three times he said to me, 'Do you see what they are doing to me?'"

The family are also calling for CS gas to be banned. But Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said: "We shall continue with the operational trials of CS spray, unless we receive information which alters the scientific view that the effects of the spray are only temporary."

Piara Power of the anti-racist pressure group Newham Monitoring Project, in Forest Gate, east London, said: "CS gas is supposed to be used as a last resort when an officer's life is in danger. There was no need to restrain him in this way when there were so many officers around."

The family have launched a campaign calling for the ban-



BERNIE GRANT: *Calling for video cameras.*

ning of CS spray and the suspension of the officers involved. Last Saturday they held a mass demonstration between Forest Gate Police Station and Ilford Police Station.

Meanwhile, Hertfordshire Constabulary's Deputy Chief Constable, Frank Wilkinson, who has been appointed to investigate the case for the Police Complaints Authority,

has appealed for witnesses.

"It is vitally important to this investigation that anyone who was in the area of Romford Rd during the time of this incident to contact the Hertfordshire officers conducting this enquiry.

● *Anyone with information is asked to contact the incident room on 01717 333354 or 0181 597 8420.*

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